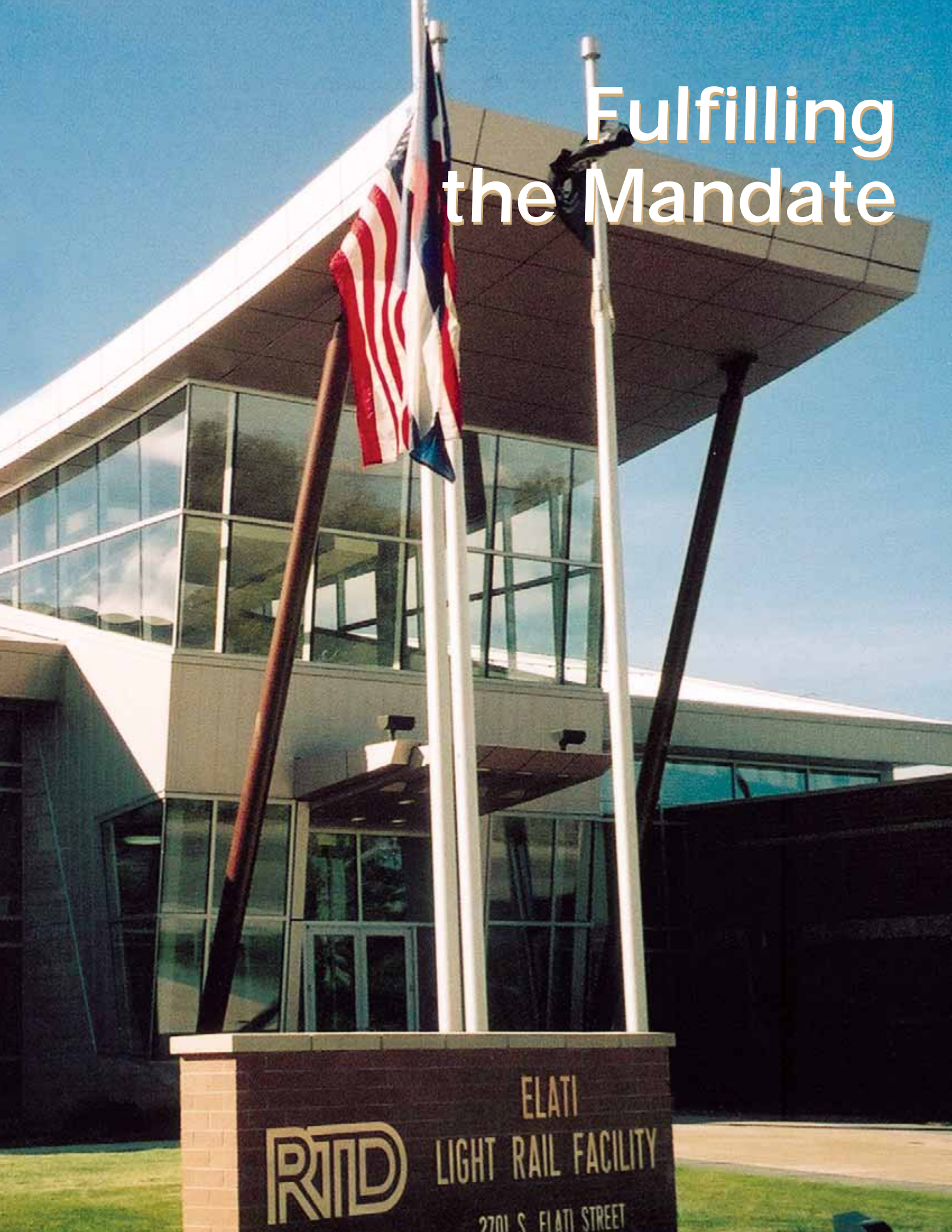


# Fulfilling the Mandate



The signing of the Brownfields Law in January 2002 was a landmark for communities and other brownfields stakeholders. It increased funding for assessment and cleanup, clarified liability protections, and strengthened state and tribal response programs.

With the law's passage, responsibility for implementation fell largely to EPA. The Agency moved quickly, bringing years of legislative work to fruition in a matter of months. EPA met the formidable goals set by Congress within a tight time-frame and under intense public scrutiny.

The first step was to engage brownfields stakeholders to keep them fully informed and involved during the Brownfields Law's implementation. Early on, EPA held a series of listening sessions and public meetings to provide information and obtain stakeholder feedback. Sessions were held for community, business, environmental, and governmental groups and organizations. Outreach materials were published and information posted on EPA and stakeholder Web sites. As policies and programs under the new law began to emerge, EPA held additional public meetings on targeted subjects, including grant opportunities and proposed due diligence on environmental regulations.

The next step required the Agency to mobilize teams of technical, legal, and program experts to develop policies and procedures under the new law. EPA teams issued guidelines that consolidated three new Brownfields grant programs into a single, streamlined application process. These guidelines included new funding eligibility definitions for a wide range of brownfields with numerous environmental conditions,

## **Brownfields Law At-a-Glance**

On January 11, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. The law expands the EPA's Brownfields Program in the following ways:

- Increases funding authority up to \$200 million per year in grants for assessments, revolving loan funds, and direct cleanups
- Clarifies Superfund liability for prospective purchasers, innocent landowners, and contiguous property owners
- Authorizes up to \$50 million per year for building and enhancing state and tribal response programs and expands activities eligible for funding

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Left Photo: Light Rail Facility  
Englewood, CO

*Fulfilling the Mandate*

## Competitive Grant Programs

- **Assessment Grant:** Funding to inventory, characterize, assess, and conduct planning and community involvement related to brownfields.
- **Cleanup Grant:** Funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield properties.
- **Revolving Loan Fund Grant:** Funding to capitalize a revolving loan fund and make sub-grants.
- **Job Training Grant:** Funding for environmental training of residents in communities impacted by brownfields.

including petroleum contamination, mine scarred lands, methamphetamine drug labs, PCBs, and hazardous substances and wastes under Superfund and RCRA. New proposal guidelines were also produced, requiring coordination among EPA and other federal and state agencies to ensure program consistency. Within a year of the law's passage, EPA awarded more than \$75 million in Brownfields funding to protect the environment and revitalize communities.

In addition to new eligibility guidelines for properties and grantees, EPA published guidelines for state and tribal response program grants—providing rules for distributing up to \$50 million annually to benefit states and tribes working to clean up and reuse brownfields.

Agency teams also produced new guidance implementing the Brownfields Law's sweeping liability and enforcement changes. New policies on prospective purchaser agreements and settlements were issued, as was guidance on bona fide prospective purchaser, innocent landowner, and contiguous property owner liability. The Agency teams also offered guidance on windfall liens and the municipal solid waste exemption.

EPA quickly and efficiently moved forward on the Brownfields Law's all appropriate inquiry provisions, producing an interim rule as well as the Agency's first multi-stakeholder regulatory negotiation in more than ten years. The negotiating committee produced a consensus agreement that formed the basis for new federal standards on environmental assessment practices.

EPA teams developed new performance measures for the Brownfields Program, providing clear standards to measure and manage the unprecedented amount of funding now dedicated to cleaning up and reusing brownfields. Agency teams synthesized hundreds of potential measures into a short list of data points that provide the public and EPA with up-to-the-minute knowledge of the Brownfields Program's results.

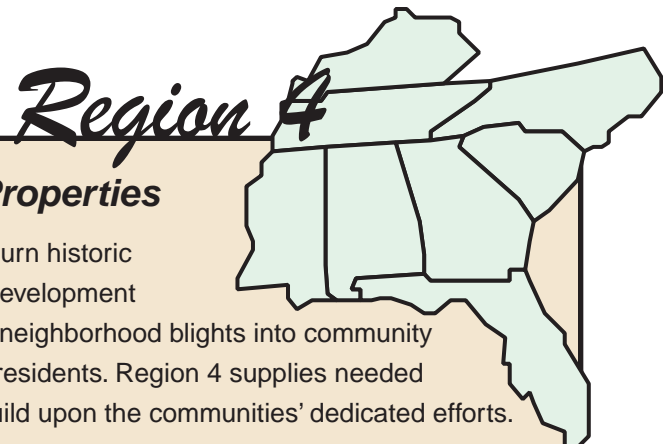


Evanston Machine Shop  
Evanston, WY

The Brownfields Law expanded the circle of stakeholders involved in assessing, cleaning up, and reusing brownfields. The efforts by EPA and its many partners to implement the new law and its provisions helped the nation fulfill this top environmental priority. As a result, the Brownfields Law is supporting the cleanup and reuse of thousands of properties, and is leveraging billions of dollars in economic development and thousands of jobs across the country.



Former Texaco Gas Station  
Prineville, OR



### ***Reusing and Restoring Abandoned Properties***

In the Southeast, Region 4 has communities striving to turn historic industrial eyesores into properties with an eye-full of redevelopment potential. Brownfields grants are the engines for turning neighborhood blights into community assets, restoring hope, and creating opportunity for the residents. Region 4 supplies needed technical support, guidance, and oversight in order to build upon the communities' dedicated efforts.



Former Arcade Textile Mill  
Rock Hill, SC

In Rock Hill, South Carolina, a Brownfields Assessment grant initiated the rehabilitation process of two historic textile mills and 27 properties. With assistance from the Rock Hill Council of Neighborhoods, environmental justice concerns were addressed such as effects resulting from the textile industry closures. Projects underway include the renovation of abandoned textile mills into senior citizen housing, an activity center, affordable housing, and business space. With a committed city government, the project generates local spin-off

projects, such as improving sewer and water lines, filming a historical documentary of neighborhoods, and establishing a tax increment funding district.

In Jacksonville, Florida, 42 acres were the former home to a power generating facility that produced electrical power since the 1950s. This area, on the South Bank of the St. Johns River, was targeted by an assessment grant and transformed into a scenic playground where visitors at Super Bowl XXIX attended interactive theme park activities with sports celebrities, coaches, referees, and more. With help from state and federal partners, the plant was designated a brownfield before the challenging cleanup began. Approximately \$25 million was spent on demolition, disposal, cleanup, and other onsite environmental activities. The cleanup of Jacksonville's Electrical Authority Park is just one part of a larger initiative to revitalize Jacksonville's downtown district.

Web site: [www.epa.gov/region4](http://www.epa.gov/region4)